



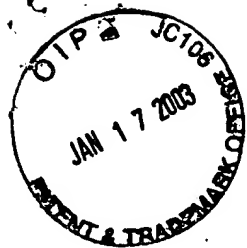
3748

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

<b>TRANSMITTAL FORM</b> <i>(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)</i>	Application Number	09/787,651	
	Filing Date	September 24, 1999	
	First Named Inventor	Dieter Otto	
	Group Art Unit	3748	
	Examiner Name	Thereas Trieu	
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	6	Attorney Docket No.	1589.GLE.PT

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment / Response <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication: <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Brief <input type="checkbox"/> Reply Brief <input type="checkbox"/> Assignment with Cover Sheet <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Check in the amount of \$____ <input type="checkbox"/> Credit card authorization in the amount of \$____ <input type="checkbox"/> Declaration & Power of Attorney <input type="checkbox"/> Drawings ____ sheets <input type="checkbox"/> Formal <input type="checkbox"/> Informal	<input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request ____ month <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Calculation Table <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Form 1449 <input type="checkbox"/> Copies of IDS References <input type="checkbox"/> Issue Fee Transmittal & Advance Order	<input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance Fee Transmittal ____ year <input type="checkbox"/> Missing Parts Response <input type="checkbox"/> Notification of Change of Attorney Address & Docket Number <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Return Postcard <input type="checkbox"/> Revocation & Power of Attorney <input type="checkbox"/> Status Inquiry <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
<b>Remarks</b> <div style="text-align: right; font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">RECEIVED</div> <div style="text-align: right;">JAN 22 2003</div> <div style="text-align: right;">TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700</div>		

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY OR AGENT			
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Signature		Date	10 Jan 03
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Typed or Printed Name		Randall B. Bateman	
Signature		Date	10 Jan 03



*S. Little*  
1-24/03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#15/leg  
Ben  
01/24

In re application of: Dieter Otto  
U.S. Serial Number: 09/787,651  
PCT App. No.: PCT/EP99/07111  
(Claiming Priority to: German Patent App. No. 29823809.8)  
Filed: September 24, 1999  
Group: 3748  
Examiner: Theresa Trieu  
For: VACUUM PUMP  
Attorney Docket: 1589.GLE.PT

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*Brandon F. [Signature]*

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

Dear Sir:

In the Office Action mailed October 11, 2002, the Examiner rejected pending claims 33-42, 60, 91-99, 117, 118, 120 and 121 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of various combinations of three prior art references. In reply, Applicant offers the following response and explanation regarding the references cited by the Examiner and respectfully requests further consideration of the above-captioned application.